

Council

Meeting

October 5, 2010

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
Borough Council held at 7:30 P.M. on
Tuesday, October 5, 2010, in the Council
Chamber, Hillsdale, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by
Mayor Arnowitz who also led the Salute
to the Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING

Borough Clerk Sandt stated, "This is a Meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 5th day of October 2010. Notice of the time and place of this meeting has been provided to The Review, Pascack Press, The Record and Community Life; a copy was posted on the bulletin board outside of this meeting room and provided to any interested parties.

Please notify the Municipal Clerk for any disability requirements necessary for attendance at Mayor and Council meetings. The fire exits are located through the double doors to your left. Please silence all cell phones and pagers.

ROLL CALL:

Borough Clerk Sandt called the roll those present being as follows: Councilmembers Frank, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Weinstein. Absent: Councilmember DeJoseph. Also in attendance Borough Attorney Paul.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On motion by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Frank, the minutes of the Council Meeting of September 14, 2010, were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. CHRISTOPHER DONALDSON, PRESIDENT PBA LOCAL 207, REJECTING ANY CONSIDERATION TO OPEN CURRENT CONTRACT.

Received, filed and referred to the Borough Auditor on motion by Councilmember Weinstein to look into the implications for 2011 of

the 2% Tax Cap so we can have a better understanding of where we are which might present an opportunity to provide more solid information about the state of the Borough's financial affairs. This would give permission to the Borough Auditor to proceed with an analysis.

Motion

—
Motion by Councilmember Weinstein to give the Borough Auditor permission to move forward with an analysis, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Frank, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Weinstein

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember DeJoseph

2. JASON DE GISE, PLANNING BOARD CHAIRMAN, REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF THE 35 DAY TIME PERIOD FOR REVIEW OF ORDINANCE 10-12 "SIGNS."

Received, filed and approved on motion by Mayor Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon, and unanimously carried.

3. MICHAEL SARIDIS REQUESTING REMOVAL OF A TREE ON BROOKSIDE PLACE.

Received and filed on motion by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Arnowitz said he also received an email from Bernadette Kaser of 20 Brookside Place making the same request.

DPW Superintendent Durie said he inspected the tree and will request Ken Barber of the Shade Tree Commission to evaluate the tree for his expert opinion and will advise the Council accordingly.

DISCUSSION:

- 1) Revaluation/Reassessment.

Mayor Arnowitz asked the Council if they are in favor of Reassessment and the expenditure of funds which would be required, especially the commercial properties that are repealing their taxes. The cost could range from \$260,000 as the CFO advised the time has passed wherein an abbreviated reassessment could have been done. They do not physically visit the fields but review the

worksheets from the prior revaluation and come up with the new tax. We would be required to complete a full revaluation which would involve going out into the field; every home in town, every commercial establishment, send out forms indicating the reassessment, meet with the residents that have a problem, they have to defend themselves and it is a costly endeavor. It can be bonded over five years.

Mayor Arnowitz said commercial properties are based not only on property value, it is also based on the business they do. We have not won any of the appeals. If the property is evaluated at one-half million dollars with reval it becomes \$400,000, the tax would be based on \$400,000. The money we fund the library is partially based on the formula which includes property values at a third of a mil. The high school tax is based on property values. It is possible that the property value will go down but because of the multiplier, you would still pay the same.

Mayor Arnowitz said there will be a Resolution on the Agenda for the next meeting to obtain a firm for Revaluation/Reassessment.

2) "Green Corners" and Recycling.

Councilmember Giancarlo said we would like to talk about "Green Corners" this evening. This is a program that incorporates bins which has three different types of recycling. These are free bins provided to the Borough, they provide public education campaigns and community outreach about methods of recycling, involved with local business promotion, clean and collect them and clean them of graffiti, etc. The Green Team is very active in this town and he introduced Eric Klein from Green Corners.

Aaron Klein of Green Corners said he has been working very closely with regard to this program. They develop and create public space for recycling programs for downtown areas and parks and wherever there is heavy traffic and heavy waste flow and recyclable material flow. The units are customized and designed to match any current tone or regulations and they take care of the installation, monthly cleaning and removal of graffiti and blemishes. They provide 24 hour emergency response service, comprehensive insurance on these units and taking care of everything from the design of the unit itself to the placement of the units. They recommend locations but are open to advice of Mayor and Council.

They work with communities that have public recycling bins but don't have a very good compliance level and poor results. We develop locally Green Teams volunteers working with different communities to get local youth involved in their aspects as well as working with the schools, getting students involved. On a monthly basis they come back with reporting of increased recyclables that

go into this unit which is a three compartment container; waste is one of the components so some of the existing trash cans will be replaced, commingled glass and bottles and paper and cardboard. They provide the tracking of the tonnage results, increased recycling tonnage, decreased waste tonnage and convert them into equivalent factors through their partners at the EPA and then provide results of the program in terms of not necessarily tonnage but in terms of saved trees and water conservation, pollution aversion, more meaningful tangible factors.

This program is cost free from everything - the bins, the education, it is all local, tasteful and there is a green message to everything they do. From that sponsorship a percentage goes back to Hillsdale, it is a revenue share, and through our recycling tonnage and decreased waste tonnage, we realize a cost savings from disposal fees, tipping, a potential rebate increase from recyclables and revenue share from the sponsorship. We don't take away jobs from DPW workers or compete on contracts and we discussed with Waste Management and DPW Superintendent Durie to work directly with them.

He has put together a map of proposed locations, there are 36 potential spots, but will start off with 25. That will be put into a formal proposal and given to Council Members along with a sample contract.

DPW Superintendent Durie said we have discussed the entire situation. He looked at Emerson's recycling containers and also visited Hackensack's recycling containers. Containers would be strategically placed throughout the whole town, more so in areas of recreation, downtown at the Park, along Broadway where restaurants generate recycling. He believes this is a step in the right direction, move forward. We will work and abide with the company's recommendations.

Mr. Klein said he will work with Waste Management on their current routes and their existing program.

Mayor Arnowitz asked if our DPW staff with reduced manpower empty 108 bins on a regular basis.

Mr. Klein said we are finding with our other locations that the collection methods done by the trash hauler, DPW either stays the same or is reduced because of the larger capacity. We will have a boiler plate collection concept because every community is different. That will be planned out before we go ahead.

Councilmember Schiavone said we currently do not pay tipping and if that is factored into the equation, it does not exist in Hillsdale.

Mr. Klein said the revenue projection that will come back with this proposal will be based on the advertising.

Grace Biener, 649 Hillside Avenue -

When she escorted Aaron she brought him to Stonybrook because that is one of the major issues for the citizens of Hillside, there is no recycling at the swim club. He is proposing to place a unit at the swim club. Emerson has loud advertising but Mr. Klein's advertising is subtle. Education component works well with our motto and each of our committee members have met with him to talk about their role to work with him to educate our citizens in the schools as well as the public.

Mr. Klein said he is very excited about the results he is seeing and he posts them on his website and the town website.

3) Garbage Program.

Mayor Arnowitz said he is very concerned about our garbage program which is supposed to be initiated November 1st. There is no plan and his concern is how the residents are being notified. People have to know when their garbage is being picked up and there is a list of people who need to have their back yard pickup continued. There has to be a plan to qualify a person and the creation of a list. How does Waste Management identify these people. It has to be advertised by November 1st if we get the letter from the state but we have to work under assumption that we are going to receive that letter from the state.

DPW Superintendent Durie said he has the routes and the people who work those routes. He has the division of the routes already in place on a map. The Borough Clerk will have to certify that they will go to a printer and then we will identify the date of the garbage pickup. If garbage is picked up on Monday or Thursday, we will retain it. If garbage is picked up on Tuesday or Friday, that schedule will also be retained. With regard to the winter mode, we will identify the day the garbage will be picked up and we will shade in an area in four different shadings. It is done in sections of Hillside primarily east of Broadway which is a Monday/Thursday route except for north of Clinton Avenue; we will be able to identify what part of town and what street a resident lives which will be picked up either Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. We have an agreed in the contract that when a holiday occurs, garbage will be picked up on the regular next day of garbage pickup.

We do not have an arbitrary list of people who want their garbage pickup up at the back yard. We will need either a doctor's note or something to that effect; in other towns that is the general requirement. Notification should be made to Durie's office and a

visit will be made to ensure that a bone fide reason exists why garbage is not picked up at the curb.

Administrator Polce said Waste Management is waiting to execute upon receipt of the letter from the state. If we advise Waste Management by Monday at the latest, they will have a turnaround and able to execute by November 1. We are beholden to someone else.

Councilmember Schiavone said we could do a mailing to all households and that would give the residents sufficient time.

Superintendent Durie said the DPW can be reached at 201-358-5053, garbage hotline at 201-666-4800, Extension 1578. Messages may be left on that machine all day, every day, special pickups, etc. We communicate with residents every day and we do have the ability to communicate. Possibly we could advertise the telephone number as a request line for that type of pickup so that we could put the resident on the list.

Mayor Arnowitz said the message will be in the October Newsletter. It will be printed in the paper again and he agreed that we would have to do a mailing.

Superintendent Durie said we have a leaf notice that will be going out advising residents the dates for leaf pickup. He did speak with the Borough Clerk regarding a mass mailing.

Police Chief Stalter suggested a print, sign board, website and a phone reminder would help.

Mayor Arnowitz said it is imperative as best as possible what we are trying to accomplish and notify everyone. We should be able to get a mailing before next week's meeting and it should include backyard pickups. He would like this done by the 15th of the month. If necessary, a second mailing can follow before the first of November.

Superintendent Durie said we will do the best we can to get the information out, however, it will depend on how fast the printer can provide the information.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Mayor Arnowitz opened the public meeting and invited comment from the audience.

Elaine Saridis, 233 Broadway -
She called the town when the tree fell and hit her house on Thursday and asked what she should do. She was advised to speak to DPW Superintendent Durie, however, he was not available. She and

her husband spoke with the Borough Clerk and said she is very concerned about the tree. She said the entire tree did not fall but a limb fell and there are only two limbs left on the tree. The limb had plenty of greenery but it fell because it is rotting. Jack Stubbs of the Environmental Commission inspected the tree and said it should come down. We wrote a letter to the Council, took photographs, and informed her insurance company and the Borough's insurance company. The police made out a report stating it is a town tree and no one has even contacted us or gave us any type of information. The biggest part of that tree is hanging over her house.

DPW Superintendent Durie said he has not been contacted by anyone nor the homeowner.

Mayor Arnowitz said if the tree needs to be removed it will be done.

Borough Administrator Polce said he and the Superintendent will take care of the matter tomorrow morning and we will have a resolution by noontime.

Michael Saridis, 233 Broadway -

His initial call to the town was who was responsible for the branch that hit our house and the cleanup. Since Thursday we have not been contacted by anyone from the Borough. He did not get any satisfaction when we called the Borough Hall; he tried to contact Superintendent Durie who was not available. He wants help and a response. The branch has been here for a week.

Borough Administrator Polce said he is providing a date, a time line, and he will be held accountable.

Michael Brinzey, 33 Highland Avenue -

He said Councilmember Hanlon has a list of 15 seniors who need rear yard pickup and he suggested that she turn the list over to Superintendent Durie. He believed Waste Management already has that list so there will not be a problem. He is also very concerned with the restrictions made by the County regarding the senior daily bus trips or yearly bus trips and that they require a certification every time the seniors get on the bus. It will also be reviewed quarterly for re-evaluation. He suggested that the invoicing for busing be transferred to the \$28,000 that is allotted for seniors.

Ann Cron, 187 Magnolia Avenue -

She is having trouble filling our bus trips because the price is prohibitive in some instances. If we have to add the amount of money for the bus onto the amount that the members have to pay, we will not be able to run the bus trips. She was not in favor of

taking away the portion of the money allotted for the busing and put it somewhere else.

Thomas Squilanti, 431 Piermont Avenue -
He started the tax appeal process in 2009, on February 25, 2010, his wife and Richard Mohr signed a settlement stipulation and as of October 5, 2010, he just received a letter that was addressed to Victor Polce. It states that his tax appeal was never received. He was informed that his process was complete, we signed the settlement stipulation, and the Borough of Hillsdale would take care of the rest. He asked what he should do to appeal his taxes. He wanted the record to state that February 25, 2010, was the date but as he looked at the letter addressed to Victor Polce, it looks like December 25, 2010. He wanted to be on record that this was done at the beginning of the year.

After a discussion with the Council, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

RESOLUTIONS: (Consent Agenda)

Mayor Arnowitz read the Consent Agenda of Resolutions.

He said Resolution 10131 Award Bid for Wireless Monopole at Wierimus Road is removed from the Consent Agenda and will be voted upon at the next meeting.

10123 Approve Cancellation of Grant Balances was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

10124 Establishing a Dedicated Trust by Rider for a Historic Preservation Trust Fund was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

10125 Municipal representative for Open Space Committee was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilman Weinstein.

10126 Authorize Application for Centennial Field Safety Improvement Funds was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

10127 Authorize Application for a Forestry Management Plan Funds was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

10128 Authorizing Adjusting Taxes Due to County Board Judgment on Various Properties was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo,

seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

10129 Endorsing Community Development Projects for AAH of Bergen County, Inc. was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

10130 Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate, Block 503, Lot 5.01, was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

Motion to approve all Resolutions was made by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Frank, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone
And Weinstein

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember DeJoseph

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS AFFIXED HERETO)

LAST GO ROUND

Police Chief Stalter said we will have our Open House on Sunday from 11AM to 1PM at the Police Department; the Fire Department will conduct activities for the culmination of Fire Prevention Week. The resealing of the Range Roof which was provided for under our Capital Budget has been completed. We won't know if it was successful until the temperature drops below freezing but we do have a five year guarantee. An email went out regarding personnel matters to the Council.

Mayor Arnowitz said Washington Township has expressed interest in using our Range and asked if we are capable of satisfying all of these towns and take care of our own needs.

Police Chief Stalter said yes we do. He said there is the possibility of two new tenants and he would cap it at that.

Lieutenant Niego said we had Operation Take Back on Saturday and 37 pounds of drugs were brought in. Next year we would like to place a satellite box at the Hillsdale House. Last year it was just for New Jersey, this year it was nation-wide.

DPW Superintendent Durie said the electronic event will be held the third Saturday of November, the 20th. This will appear in My Hillsdale. Residents can bring in paper for shredding and use the bin for electronics. The shredding will be held from 8AM to 12PM.

Councilmember Giancarlo said the bins on Hillsdale past the businesses on Sunday are overflowing and it is not just random trash but includes garbage.

Mayor Arnowitz would like to honor Fornazor and Steve Hult and Kenny Backer.

Durie said the Borough Clerk is working on something for Steve Hult and we can discuss the others later.

Mayor Arnowitz asked if the Park Ridge transfer station is closing.

Durie said he has not received any information, feedback or input. He believed that the facility is being used on a daily basis. He said this Saturday is the first closing of our DPW and signs have been put up informing the residents.

Borough Engineer Statile said we had a preconstruction meeting last week on Wierimus Lane and the contractor will begin work in a week or so. We have requested PSE&G to come back and pave our streets but we have not heard from their office in two weeks. It is possible we will have to institute action with their performance bonding company.

He received the specifications from the Borough Clerk regarding the cell tower extension at the fire house. We are reviewing those specifications. Regarding open space resolutions with the County, the residents should understand that they paid money to the County under the Open Space Tax. The only way we can get our money back is to make applications to the County to get our money back into Hillsdale. We don't make the applications here, that money goes to other communities.

There will be four affordable units that will be coming on the market in the next five or six months; construction is underway on Patterson Street. He needs Hillsdale to contract with someone who will market those units and make sure they follow the requirements of COAH for those units. We don't have anybody right now and we need someone at least four months prior to occupancy. That person would need certain training by the state or you could contract with the Bergen County Housing Authority.

Councilmember Schiavone said the Local Assistance Board runs Hillsdale Helping Hillsdale program. There are a large amount of needy families and they are very low on donations. She asked that a request be placed in My Hillsdale towards the front indicating Hillsdale Helping Hillsdale needs donations. Perishables can be

received at the church at 5:30PM on Monday. They also have a special turkey drive and they accept turkeys for Thanksgiving.

She said there is a resident in town who would like to donate a sculpture for the library and one that could be placed in front of the municipal building.

The Sign Ordinance is still under review with the Planning Board and she asked the Borough Engineer to discuss the issue of advertising going on cans and if we would amend the ordinance so that it would be allowed.

Councilmember Weinstein thanked everyone who was involved in the referendum vote. We had a tremendous turnout of over 3,000 and more than 99% of the residents voted down the referendum. There were similar results in River Vale. The battle was won but the war continues and we heard that Woodcliff Lake and Montvale will continue to pursue this through the courts or through Trenton. The issue at hand now is whether to split the school district; the tax issue itself has been put to rest for the moment. Hillsdale and River Vale are prepared to deal with this and represent all the residents and keep fighting the good fight.

Councilmember Hanlon said the flu clinics will be held this month; Thursday from 12PM to 1:30PM at the Methodist Church. The other clinic will be held on October 19 at 7PM at the Methodist Church. She has a notice from David Franz, Director of the Library, indicating there are two openings on the Library Board due to resignations. She presented the name of Guy Mule of 336 Piermont Avenue who would be willing to serve on the Library Board filling the vacancy left by Jim Borowsky whose term expires 2014.

Motion to approve Mr. Mule was made by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

Marsha Demarest has officially resigned from the Library Board and her term will expire in 2013.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Frank, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Weinstein

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember DeJoseph

Councilmember Hanlon said this Saturday the Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual Artistic Creations in the Park starting at 1PM to 4PM.

With regard to Hillsdale Helping Hillsdale, about six months ago we placed containers in a few stores for donations and she followed the one placed in the Icecreamery and every month the patrons contribute their loose change and that money goes for perishables. This week she picked up the money and it totaled \$72.00.

She asked if the prisoners, when they were here, if they did any cleanup of the Borough property.

Durie said we had to be very careful of poison ivy which was very prevalent this year. We will have them in the winter months.

Councilmember Giancarlo said we are looking into solar energy and it is becoming more feasible and economically viable. With incentives the pay back is down to about six to eight years and less for homeowners. We will get preliminary information and looking to see if solar energy on some of our public grounds can be economical and environmentally a good thing.

Hillsdale has a very viable volunteer population and those in the Historic Preservation Committee are doing a lot of good things without a lot of fanfare. They are attempting to catalog the history of the town and get photographs and stories about Hillsdale before people pass on. If there are no photographs available, they will interview a person and record their personal history. A photo collection is being expanded, they are working with the Pascack Historical Society, looking into grant possibilities, reviewing our historic buildings. They will catalog and explain why those historic buildings are important. The train station is another site where they are updating some of the things inside the station's lobby, making the historic photos there better. There are books on different towns but there is no book available on Hillsdale and we feel there should be a book with respect to Hillsdale. They are locating and archiving and registering historical content before it is tossed, etc. In that data there will be an historical tour of Hillsdale on Saturday at 11AM at the train station.

Mayor Arnowitz said there is an open house at the fire house, ambulance corps and the police station on Sunday at 11AM. He invited all to attend.

We will be hosting an employee breakfast for which the Borough received a grant and the money must be used for this purpose on October 26, 2010.

There has been a recommendation from Council members that we host the meeting at the table. We would not take any actions at that meeting so that the public would have the opportunity to observe and respond. We would only take action in the case of an

emergency. He asked the Council to consider this change; another recommendation was that we change the dates of the meetings to one on the first Tuesday and the second on the third Tuesday to give the public more of an opportunity to be aware of the meetings.

On October 7, the Shared Service Meeting is scheduled. It will be held at 7PM in the conference room on the third floor of Washington Township town hall. Councilmember DeJoseph will be the official representative and invited other Council members to attend.

He thanked the residents for coming out to vote on the referendum; without the efforts of Councilmember Weinstein, this could not have happened. Ann Cron also was very active in garnering residents to vote. The Committee met every two weeks since April with River Vale and taxpayer dollars could not be expended. Our funds were extremely limited with what we were able to do but we see the results of what happened; we got the message out. This was a community effort and we should be proud of ourselves. He thanked Robert Hewitt for assisting us. However, this is not over, he had contact with Woodcliff Lake who is well-prepared to go to Trenton. They are looking to get this formula changed or split the schools which will be a disaster for four communities. We have a very good school system which is regional, we have shared programs between the schools, and that will all be lost and he did not believe there would be a dollar savings for any town. There is nothing worthwhile destroying such a successful school system. We will fight this up to the New Jersey Supreme Court if that would be necessary. Hillsdale spends a great deal of money hosting the school and we do not receive anything for the loss of the ratable at that piece of property. When Hills and Pascack Valley were built, the towns of River Vale and Hillsdale paid to build those schools because Montvale and Woodcliff Lake were farmland.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to go to Closed Session was made by Councilmember Weinstein, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried.

OPEN SESSION

A motion to go to Open Session was made by Councilmember Weinstein, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon, and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Weinstein, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon, and unanimously carried.

10-5-10

Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Borough Clerk